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STONE IMPLEMENTS

AND

FRAGMENTS OF POTTERY

FROM CANADA.

BY

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AND OF ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL, LONDON.

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY.

Reprinted from the Journal of the Anthropological Institute, 1878.



Printed by W. G. Smith, 15, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.

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Dr Marsden with the author, kind regards,

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BY
SIR GEORGE DUNCAN GIBB, BART., OF FALKLAND,
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MEMBER OF MANY ACADEMIES AND SOCIETIES
IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

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With Two Plates.

LONDON:
T. RICHARDS, 37, GREAT QUEEN STREET, W.C.
1873.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Kell Bros Lith. London.

IMPLEMENTS FROM CANADA.

Full Size.

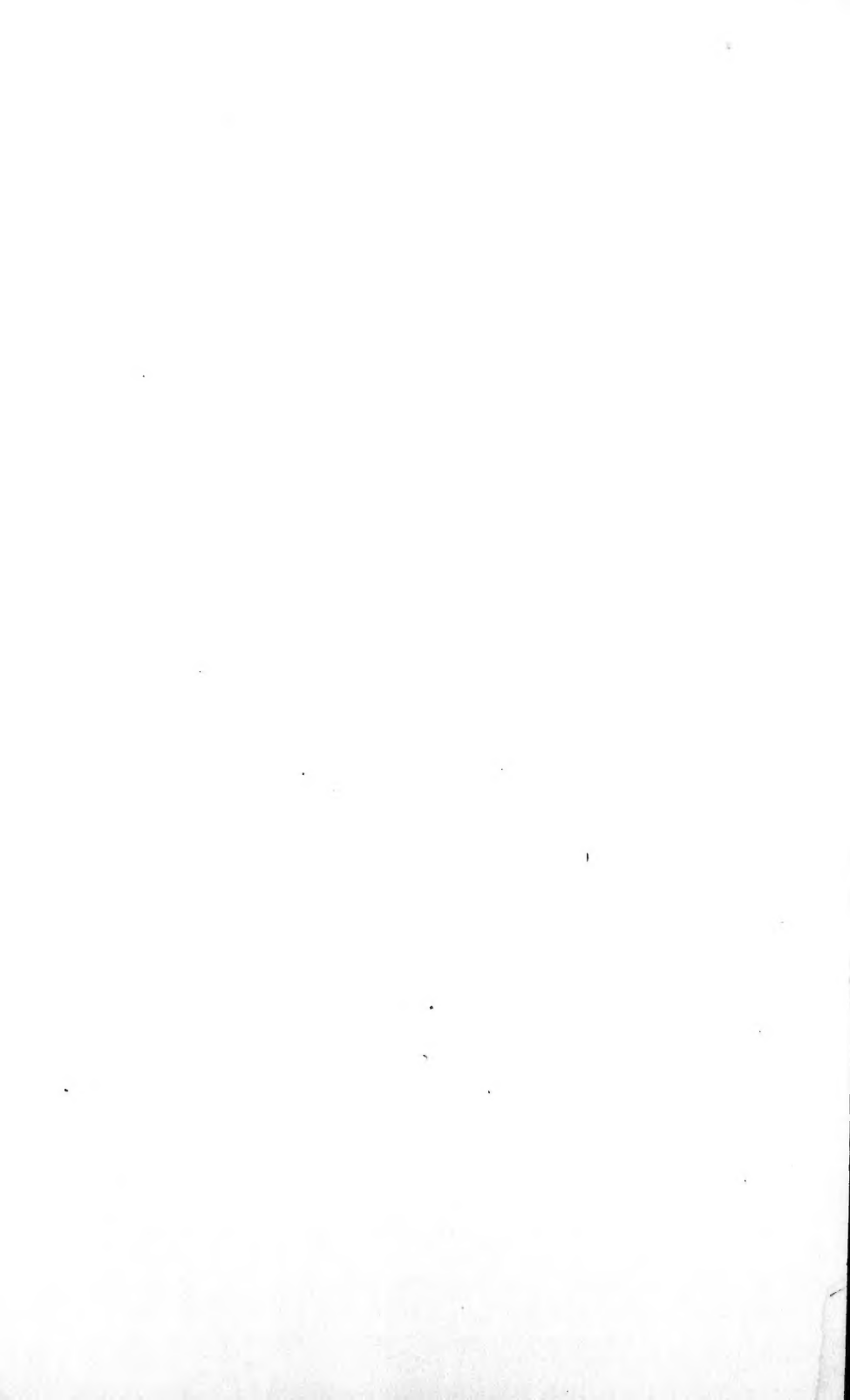


Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8



Fig 11

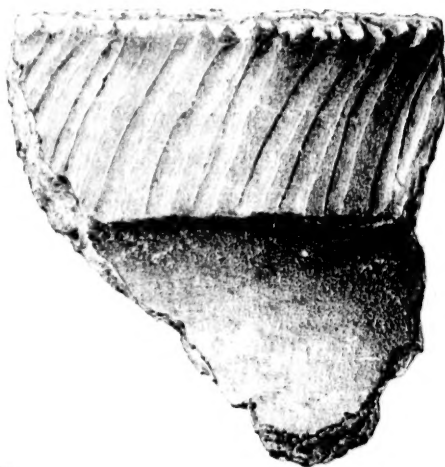


Fig 12

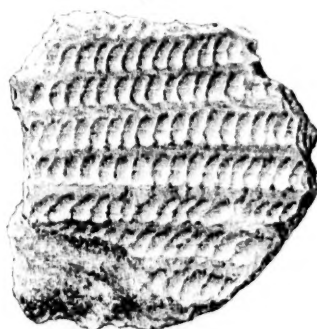


Fig 9



Fig 10



Kell Bros. Lith. London.

STONE IMPLEMENTS *and* FRAGMENTS of POTTERY *from* CANADA.

By Sir DUNCAN GIBB, Bart., M.A., M.D., LL.D., F.G.S.

IN various parts of the Dominion of Canada stone implements of different kinds have been discovered from time to time, which are preserved in many of the local museums, possessing not only considerable variety in their form and supposed uses, but at the same time indicating various degrees of antiquity. With these are not unfrequently found examples of pottery of a very primitive form, marked by patterns described as herring-bone, basket, corn-ear, etc.

The most recent of these stone implements are thick gouges, chisels, hammers, hatchets, and various utensils, for we find them in use among the Indians down almost to the present time. Arrow-heads and spear-heads are unquestionably more ancient, for we do not find them in what are presumed to be recent sepultures, or in association with the thick stone gouges and chisels already mentioned. They are, moreover, mostly found on the surface of ploughed land or fields composed of gravel or other soils, and marking, in all probability, the site of some engagement or battle-field between different tribes of the aborigines.

The specimens now exhibited are from various parts of Canada, at extreme distances in some instances, and are of different varieties of stone. The collection consists of some sixteen arrow-heads, two flat spears, two hatchets, rather different to what are usually met with, and some portions of pottery, which shall be briefly described in detail.

The spear-heads are respectively $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches

wide, and $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches long by 2 inches wide ; the shorter specimen has evidently been broken off at its lower end, and both are without their tangs, that is to say if they ever possessed any ; they are composed of fawn-coloured chert, are thin and irregularly flat throughout, being not more than a quarter of an inch thick at their thickest part ; the larger weighs 3 ozs. less 30 grains, the smaller $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and 40 grains. They were found in the Saguenaye district, below Quebec, and are of considerable antiquity.

The two hatchets are wedge-shaped, and composed of a dark green micaceous schist, their surfaces being smooth as if polished. The larger implement is $3\frac{3}{5}$ inches long, $1\frac{1}{5}$ inch wide at its narrowest and $2\frac{1}{5}$ inches wide at its broadest part, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick. The smaller implement is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide at its narrowest and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches at its broadest part, and $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch thick ; it is not so well shaped as the other, and has a piece clipped off one of its surfaces. They weigh respectively $7\frac{1}{4}$ and 4 ounces, and the smaller specimen is represented in figs. 1 and 2. They were found at Niagara on the Canada side, close to the Falls, where I procured them on the occasion of my last visit there in 1853.

The stone arrow-heads present some variety in their size, form, and material, as may be observed in the drawings. The smallest is $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch long, and the largest $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; but I possessed a longer and larger than any of these, that measured about $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, that was stolen from my collection in 1859, when I exhibited it before one of the London Societies. I had never seen a finer arrow in any of the Canadian collections that I examined. Of the arrow-heads, the shape is either long and narrow, tapering to a point, or terminating somewhat in a rounded end, being rather broad than tapering ; indeed one of them resembles a small celt in shape (see fig. 4.) In weight they range from 16, 31 and 44 grains up to 340 grains or close upon $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce, which may be considered a good deal for an arrow-head ; but my largest one that was filched from me must have weighed an ounce. Their thickness varies somewhat, one example that is rounded, broad, and flat is $\frac{1}{10}$ ths of an inch, not more indeed than two of the smallest. A small arrow of dark red slate is $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch thick, whilst the others run from $\frac{1}{4}$ to very nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch ; but of this latter only one approaches it. The tang or stem of the arrow varies in shape and length, as is well shown in the drawings, the longest being $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch ; the celt or leaf-shaped arrow-head seems to have no tang, as there is no indication of one having existed. Of the sixteen arrows, six were found on the island of Montreal, generally on the surface of ploughed land (figs. 7, 8, 9 and 10) ; two are from the Saguenaye

(4 and 5); one from Pointe du Chênes, near Grenville, on the Ottawa River (3); one from Chippewa, near Niagara; four from Niagara; one from William Henry; and one from Quebec (6).

The greater number of these arrows are composed of chert, one is of red slate, another of opaque white quartz, and one is much weathered, of a reddish brown colour, probably from the nature of the stone. On the whole they differ in form from the arrows that have been found in the British islands, especially in the shape of the stems, and the general form of the arrow-head itself; but I think they present a fair illustration of ancient Indian arrows that are found over various parts of Canada. No flakes have been discovered in association with them, because they have been picked up as solitary specimens here and there; yet I have no doubt that both chips and flakes may be encountered some day in abundance, when a spot is discovered on which the arrows have been manufactured. A large number of arrow-heads have been found in the vicinity of Chippewa, close to Niagara, and I infer that it marks the site of some ancient Indian battle-field, and no flakes or chips were found associated with them.

The discovery of Canadian pottery is by no means of common occurrence; any fragments, therefore, must be considered of value, and three of these are included in the collection. The smallest is nearly 2 inches square, and is covered on one side with a ribbed pattern formed by a series of notches (fig. 12), the ribs being a quarter of an inch apart; this fragment is imperfectly baked, and was picked up on the northern shores of Lake Erie, and minute particles of mica can be distinguished in it with the naked eye. The largest portion of pottery is a fragment of what evidently must have been a large vessel, and consists of a portion of the upper part with the rim $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, the outer side of which has a well-defined marking, but somewhat irregular and more fanciful; the vessel to which it belonged must not only have been large, but tolerably thick and solid, for the fragment is $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch thick; it has a preponderance of clay in its composition, and is lightly baked. The third fragment is a portion of a more highly finished and better baked work than the other two, and is triangular in form, the larger end consisting of a part of the rim of the vessel, with well-defined hollow lines an inch long, running vertically from dots or little round holes as shown in the drawing (fig. 11). It is firmer and more solid than the other two examples, and minute specks of quartz and mica can be readily seen in its structure. The patterns vary from what I have seen figured among Canadian specimens, and perhaps for the present are unique, although I learn

there are fragments in the Blackmore collection, Salisbury, found in the County of Brant, Canada, not unlike them. The two last described fragments were found on the Island of Montreal.

Small as the collection is, it took me many years to obtain it, which leads to the inference that such objects are scarce; yet many examples may be in the possession of private individuals living in the localities where they have been found. But in the course of my experience and knowledge of that country, I can state with certainty that nothing has yet been found in the gravels of Canada corresponding to the flint implements from the drift beds of England and France, so that the conclusion is a fair and reasonable one, that however old the arrow-heads and other objects may be which are now exhibited, their manufacturers existed in recent times, as compared with those of the drift period. Nevertheless I considered my specimens of sufficient interest to bring before the Institute, as helping at the same time to draw attention to the subject in the Dominion of Canada.

It would be purely speculative to estimate the age of these arrow and spear-heads; but looking upon them as the most ancient stone implements that are found in Canada, if not in America, I would be disposed to place the period of their use and manufacture at about two hundred years before the Christian era, corresponding indeed to the time when our forefathers in the British Isles may have used such things, either as weapons or as objects of the chase, and I do not think that such an age can be considered in any way remote or extravagant.

